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ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

Communications.

ARSENICUM.

By Jos. ADOLPHUS, M. D.,

Of Hastings, Mich.

The therapeutic value of this agent is as extensive as it is neglected. Though much has been written from remote periods until the present time, concerning arsenic, yet but few are willing to acknowledge its nervine power. As a remedial agent, it stands high as a nerve tonic. Its influence upon the sympathetic system is as marked as possible, while its tonic powers over the protein tissues is not to be disputed. Its power over the vasa motor nerves is different from that of other agents. While it appears to act upon them so as to control the size of the calibre of the vessel, it at the same time appears to act upon the tissues themselves, exalting their vital capacity. The influence of arsenic in small doses, such as the 1-15—1-30 grain, is certainly stimulant. So far as this property is concerned, it appears to heighten the sensibility of tissue by increasing the activity of its nerves. If arsenic is administered in conditions of the system marked by high nervous sensibility and irritability, very deleterious results follow. Or when an active ethenic condition prevails, all the symptoms are made worse by arsenic. The influence of this agent upon nutrition is not altogether brought around through the nervous system.

It may be safely alleged, that when arsenic is absorbed in minute quantities and conveyed to the tissues, that it acts upon the elementary molecules, and through its stimulating tonic effect, awakens inward activity, and causes a greater exchange of nutritive fluids and a more extensive metamorphosis of tissue. It is not unusual to find that a large excretion of urea, occurring in a state of depressed nervous force, with asthenia as a leading element, is made to yield to arsenic; this I have repeatedly observed. It may with

safety be affirmed that the derangement of nutrition inducing the above conditions is more or less dependent on the exhaustion of molecular force, independent of the nervous system, and allowing a high-toned condition and partially uncontrolled metamorphosis to occur. The influence of arsenic in controlling this depression of nutritive force is of great value.

Thus, a man, æt. 36, was attacked with great languor and depression of spirits. He became pale and emaciated, and his appetite soon failed him. He complained of aching of the lumbar region, which on pressure was really sensitive and tender. His tongue was broad, pasty-white, and tremulous, and he complained of a dreadful feeling in the cardiac region, which led him to suppose that he would die suddenly at no distant day. When he consulted me, I found his pulse 98, soft, weak, and compressible, and the heart's action feeble, and the sounds low. His lungs were correct. His bowels very irregular; costiveness would end in severe diarrhoea. I immediately ordered him FOWLER'S solution, f. ʒj., tr. iodine, gr. ʒ. s., but an excess of arsenic. He commenced with five drops three times a day, and a daily increase of one drop till twelve drops were taken, and to return to eight drops, and go to twelve drops, and so on. In three weeks he was very much better. When I first saw him, he was excreting six and a half grains of urea per pound weight of his body, which was 123 pounds. In three weeks it fell to four and three-quarter grains. All his symptoms were very materially improved, especially the cardiac. In sixteen weeks he was well, and weighed 187 pounds. But he took J. C. BAKER'S cod oil during the last thirty-eight days. There was no sugar in his urine.

Arsenic in 1-20-grain doses does exercise a most charming effect on the uterus of some females. There are cases of menorrhagia in certain nervous women that are really perplexing and vexatious to treat, harassing both the physician and the patient. In these cases the uterus is seldom free from a bloody discharge; at others the menorrhagia occurs every two or three weeks. The woman is pale, and has a smooth waxy look, though she is not really emaciated. The skin is

soft, feels cold and non-elastic, and retains its wrinkles a long time after being pinched. It is unnecessary to describe these cases, as no physician of any experience has failed to meet them, more or less.

In the cases in which there is an atonic or asthenic condition of the nervous system, arsenic works wonders.

Thus, a lady, *æt.* 40, mother of seven children, has suffered from menorrhagia for nearly six years, and regards her constitution as entirely broken-down. She had been confined to her bed for nearly a year, in consequence of the frequent recurrence of her menorrhagia. Pulse 80, soft and weak, quite compressible. Heart's action weak. Tongue broad, pale, and red at tip. Complaints of much frontal headache. Abdomen large; patulous, and of a doughy feel. Uterus tender. On examination by speculum, os and neck broad and long, quite sensitive; no inflammation or ulceration. Complaints of a great deal of pain in back, which is weak and quite sensitive to pressure. Temper more pleasant than otherwise, though often overcome by despondency and melancholy. Ordered FOWLER's solution, f.3j., bromine, gtt. q. s., dropped in so as to have an excess of arsenic. Dose, gtt. iv. three times a day, and to increase one drop every two days. In thirty days she was able to leave her bed, and in forty, rode out three miles. Menorrhagia much reduced. In three months it was less than one-fourth its usual quantity, and the attacks were further apart. The arsenic was now reduced to one drop three times a day, and cod-oil added. In four months she was well. This woman had been treated by every description of doctors, and had swallowed barrels of medicine.

The power of arsenic over the nerves of sensation is no myth. Here it acts as a true nerve tonic through its stimulant influence, enabling the nerve tissue to appropriate more nutriment.

Thus, a lady, *æt.* 33, consulted me for a severe hyperæsthesia of the stomach and rectum. She complained of a severe and long-continued aching pain in the stomach soon after taking meals, but worse after dinner, especially in dull cloudy weather. The contents of stomach would grow acid, and vomiting would occur sometimes. Whole abdomen is so tender as to cause her to flinch when pressed on, which tenderness extends to the dorsal region. She complains of a dull aching pain in the anus and rectum, of sharp stitches in her side when she coughs or sneezes, or suddenly sighs. Skin cool. Pulse regular and normal. Urine copious and light-colored,

sp. gr. 10.20. Says that the pain in her stomach makes her feel fidgetty, and sometimes dreadful. Ordered her FOWLER's solution, gtt. x. *ter die*. Continued twenty-six days, when she complained of her eyes being weak; lids were a little puffed. Suspended arsenic for three days, and commenced with gtt. iv., *ter die*, and to increase one drop every third day up to gtt. x. Continued so for two weeks, when her stomach symptoms began to yield. She complained of her eyes again. I then put her back on gtt. iv., and kept her there for three weeks, when she could take food with a great deal of comfort. Two weeks more found her free from her dorsal and rectal pain. I now put her upon cod oil with the arsenic, and she steadily improved, and was cured in four and a half months.

A woman, *æt.* 37, in robust health, and while nursing her infant of ten months old, and for which she had a large abundance of milk, in fact more than the child (which was robust and hearty) could take, foolishly took half a teaspoonful of FOWLER's solution that her brother was taking for a rebellious quotidian ague with success, "To try it," as she said. This was at 4, P. M. The next morning she found her breasts soft and flaccid, and entirely dry! This large dose caused no serious constitutional symptoms further than a little nausea and some slight vertigo.

A boy, *æt.* 13, who had suffered much from quotidian ague, was brought to me in consequence of an enlarged spleen. He was pale, but not emaciated. His skin was cool, soft, and flaccid; tongue sharp and clean; bowels regular; urine free. I ordered him FOWLER's solution, f.3j. bromine, gtt. q. s., so as to have a slight excess of arsenic. Dose, gtt. ij. three times a day. He took this six weeks, and was cured. His cheeks grew red, his blood got rich with red discs.

The sympathetic system controls the glandular system and its secretions. The power of arsenic over this system of nerves primarily, and secondarily on the glands and their products, proves it to be a most valuable agent in all cases where the glandular organs are out of order. But it must be borne in mind, that a highly irritative sthenic condition of the nerves of sensation stands in the way of its successful use, because of its stimulating powers. When the spinal system of nerves have a tendency to become hyperemic and irritable, arsenic never does good. When that system is weak, depressed, and suffering from exhaustion, arsenic does a great deal of good. A depressed cerebro-spinal system calls for arsenic, to which it is a tonic. The above condition will

cause anemia through reflex action on the sympathetic system, which latter, in turn, through depressed nerve influence, on the lymphatic glands.

Arsenic, like opium, exercises its stimulant qualities in minute doses. Its union with the protein compounds causes quick tissue change. But if the dose be carried too far, it produces its toxic effect, because it causes destruction of tissue too fast, and arrests nervous force by disorganizing nervous centres.

ELEPHANTIASIS.

BY JAMES B. BURNET, M. D.,

House-Physician, Bellevue Hospital, N. Y.

Of tropical diseases, none is more terrible than elephantiasis Græcorum, or as it is also called, lepra Arabum. JAMES ROBINSON, Esq., Superintendent of the Insane Hospital at Calcutta, has written a paper on this subject, in which he makes two varieties of the disease, one characterized by loss of sensation in the extremities, the other by tubercles, called elephantiasis tuberculata. Dr. WHITELAW AINSLIE, who, in his able essay, has probably given us the most reliable information we possess upon this fearful disorder, and to whom we are indebted for most of our statements here, does not agree with Mr. ROBINSON'S division, and himself has never met with a genuine case of the disease which has not displayed both of these features. GALEN tells us, that in his time this disease was very prevalent in Egypt. In India it is now much more prevalent than anywhere else. Here it spares no classes, although attacking the poor more frequently than the rich. It does not often occur before puberty, but when it does attack a young person, it has a dwarfing effect upon both mind and body. It most generally makes its unwelcome appearance about the age of twenty-five, and not very often in persons older than forty.

Symptoms. As the victims of this loathsome disorder sometimes find their way to the United States, it may be both instructive and interesting to give the symptoms in full, as described by that accurate observer, Dr. AINSLIE, in his own graphic language. Before doing so, however, we will remark that the first case we ever met with was in Bellevue Hospital about two years ago. The patient was a young man about twenty-eight years of age, and in him the disease was far advanced. Most of the joints of the fingers and toes having been penetrated by an ulcerative process, the extremities had already fallen off.

All we could glean from him of his former history, was that he was a native of the West Indies, and had been nursed, when a babe, by a negress. We were unable to watch the case, as he could not be persuaded to remain in the hospital. A few days since, we saw a case in the insane asylum on this island of Curacao, in which the patient was a woman, with joints swollen, and the phalanges on the point of falling off.

"The unhappy person fated to perish by this slow but relentless affliction, first perceives an unusual dryness and slight roughness of skin in hands, feet, arms, and legs, which, even after violent exercise, do not transmit the perspiration readily; he begins to fall off a little in his appetite, and to be much troubled with flatulence and other signs of indigestion, but he is as yet not ill enough to be alarmed, and pursues his customary occupation; his sleep, soon after this, in place of being refreshing to him, as it used to be, is disturbed by wild dreams, and he frequently during the night starts up in a fright, with a palpitating heart and sense of suffocation. About six weeks or two months from the time of his first being taken ill, his color begins to change; if he was rather a fair man, he grows at least two shades darker, and his features lose much of their natural aspect, becoming somewhat tumid, and less agreeable than formerly. The dryness and roughness of skin increase, and about the end of the third month he complains of a strange numbness in his hands and feet, which he can allow to be pinched without feeling pain; his pulse, which was most likely always feeble, will, if felt, be found to be extremely languid, small, nay, at times scarcely to be perceived. The aridity and unevenness of skin now extend further, reaching as high as the middle of the arm and leg; indeed, the cuticle over the whole body seems rigid, harsh, and to have entirely lost that smooth and healthy look which it had before the lepra made its primary attack. About this period, many dark-colored spots and purple tubercles usually appear on the ankles and wrists, and partially on the legs and arms; they are in shape not unlike segments of ripe currants, but flatter at the top, and of a singular shining and oily aspect; they are not attended, however, with any pain, neither are they particularly itchy, which in truth they could not well be, when we consider that they are subsequent to the want of feeling which I have above described. Some of the tubercles occasionally disappear suddenly and return again, without evident cause; others generate a small quantity of ichorous matter, which,

drying, occasions a trifling scurfy desquamation. At this stage of the malady, I have met with one or two cases in which glandular swellings at the upper and inner part of the thigh made their appearance, similar to those mentioned by Dr. ADAMS; but, as far as I can learn, this is by no means so constant a symptom of the disease in India as it seems to be in Madeira. The leprosy advancing, the tubercles increase in size and number, and seizing on the face, render the infected person a most unsightly object. It must here be remarked, that up to this period, the breast, abdomen, and back either remain tolerably smooth, or the tubercles are comparatively much fewer upon them; they are, moreover, smaller in size, nor even on these parts do they occasion much white desquamation, the natural consequence of their greater vitality. About the end of the first year every symptom is much aggravated; the dryness and rigidity of skin become universal, are distressing in the greatest degree; the numbness has extended to above the knee, and is so great, that the poor sufferer may, through inadvertence, burn his hands or feet to the bone without perceiving it; the surface of the whole frame assumes a bright yet unctuous appearance; when narrowly examined, it looks wrinkled longitudinally, and not unfrequently feels, in those parts where feeling remains, as if stung with nettles, rising up into wide-spreading irregular bumps, which come and go. The skin about the wrists and ankles, where the tubercles have scaled off, has a scurfy appearance, and here and there a raw excoriation may be perceived, the consequence, perhaps, rather of chafing than ulceration. The countenance alters still more; the cheeks grow bloated and puffy, and are studded, if I may so say, with irregular dark protuberances; the muscles of the forehead enlarged, seem as if pushed downward; the eyebrows, thickened and swollen, hang over the eyes, which being in every instance inflamed and rheumy, and having been made to look rounder by the pressure from the neighboring parts, resemble those of some wild animal; the lobes of the ears are rough, knotty, and misshapen; the tongue is foul, and is in some cases blistered with tubercles, which bleed; the breath is fetid; the voice sounds unpleasant; the urine is plentiful and generally turbid, having a most unnatural odor; the bowels are irregular; the hairs of the head gradually fall off; the parts of generation shrink; the nails break and waste away; the fingers and toes seem as if they were withered, the former bending inward as if cramped, and the heels and soles of the feet are disfigured by deep

fissures. The disease gradually going on, and the humors of the body becoming, from impeded transpiration and general stagnation, daily more corrupt; the voice, which was but six months before only unpleasant, owing perhaps to tubercles on the uvula and palate, has now a most discordant, nasal, and unnatural sound; the *alæ nasi* are swelled and scabrous, and the bones themselves of that organ are in certain cases flattened, and twisted in some degree to one side, giving to the countenance a distorted look. A most offensive ichor now distils from the nose; neither rest nor food tend to refreshen or invigorate, and all carnal appetite, in place of being increased, as some authors imagined, entirely dies away. In this condition, with many of the grand functions which support life deranged, it may easily be imagined that existence must be a state of misery; and the conviction that there is no hope whatever of recovery, makes the wretched leper still more an object of pity.

"In the advanced state to which I have brought, in description, the *lepra Arabum*, as it appears in India, the malady will sometimes continue for several years, apparently having come to an ultimate stand; but, alas! with declining years, is sure to come progressive misery; every symptom is finally rendered worse; the already ugly become loathsome; on the most trifling motion the respiration is hurried, and the dyspnoea is most tormenting, owing in all probability to the perspiration being obstructed over so great a part of the surface of the body, and the certain accumulation of morbid humors; when any exertion is used sufficient to excite diaphoresis; the only parts that perspire are the neck and a little around the waist; the face, legs, arms, and thighs are thereby merely rendered clammy, and the tubercles on them turgid. At this time a feverish attack comes on regularly every evening, which may be discovered by the increased heat of the axilla, and the eyes assume that dim but brassy appearance so properly noticed by ARZTÆUS; pulsation is no longer felt anywhere but by pressure over the heart itself; the whole frame is emaciated, the face is frightful to behold, the voice sounds hollow, as if from the tomb; the hands and feet now, from long want of due nourishment, begin to give way; partially blistered-looking ulcerations taking place over their joints; they gradually drop off, and so add helplessness to misery and long-protracted calamity. Soon after this stage comes the last closing scene; worn out by lingering and hopeless wretchedness, dead almost to every feeling of body as well as mind, the poor leper hastens

to his grave; yet cadaverous as he is, he is not deserted in his expiring moments, but finds a humane and charitable support from the more prosperous of his race. If a Pariah, he is taken care of by those of the same rank till death comes to his relief; if a Hindu or Mohammedan, he is cherished by the individual benevolence of his sect or caste; and having been conveyed to the vicinity of some pagoda or mosque, breathes out his dying prayer on what he conceives to be sacred ground."

Such is elephantiasis unchecked by treatment. It differs, however, in different constitutions. While in the feeble and poorly nourished, it will run to its most fearful extent, in the better classes it will be much retarded in its frightful march. It is extremely doubtful whether this disease is at all contagious. The native doctors deny any infectious quality. Dr. AINSLIE also doubts whether it possesses any contagious property. He gives as instances the cases of three Europeans who died of this disease, and neither their wives or servants were similarly afflicted. That it is hereditary, however, there is no doubt—children born after it has made its appearance in their parents are very liable to be attacked by it. Mr. STEWART, who has studied the disease at Tranquebar, where it is very common, furnishes us with the following observations:

"1st. That women are less liable to suffer from elephantiasis than men.

"2d. That the disease is most certainly hereditary.

"3d. That its being in any degree contagious is extremely problematical.

"4th. That every leper, suffering from an advanced stage of the malady, doubts whether he is capable of propagating his species.

"5th. That a fish diet is found to render every symptom worse.

"6th and lastly. That poor living, want of cleanliness, mendicant misery, and exposure to cold and damp, are but the too constant attendants of this dreadful affliction."

Pathology. Of this we know but little. Dissection does not throw much light upon the obscurity of the subject. Dr. AINSLIE, says, "I have observed in such cases the heart to be usually small, and the arterial system altogether shrunk and collapsed; the liver I have in one or two instances found indurated, and the gall-bladder for the most part distended with viscid and very dark-colored bile; the contents of the abdomen, had, generally speaking, an unusually pale and wasted appearance; the bones, when laid bare, were dry and brittle; the testicles, in one or two instances, were

almost entirely obliterated; and on opening the head, it has appeared to me that there was a more than ordinary determination of the blood to the membranes of the brain."

Treatment. All exciting causes must be carefully avoided. When the disease is actually formed, there is no hope of a cure. In the early stages, Mr. ROBINSON believes that the prognosis may be favorable. Mercury, antimony, and topical stimulants are the remedial agents in which he places most reliance. He also gives from six to ten grains, every eight hours, of *rad. asclepiæ giganteæ*. This medicine was discovered by Mr. PLAYFAIR, who describes it as "a vegetable mercury, specific in the cure of lues venerea, leprosy, and cutaneous eruptions in general, the most powerful alterative hitherto known, and an excellent deobstruent. In all affections of the skin, I have found it very effectual; and in the juguru or leprosy of the joints, I have never failed to heal up all the ulcers, and often have produced a perfect cure."

The remedy is not admissible in pustular eruptions. Some depend upon sarsaparilla, other native doctors give the white oxide of arsenic. Dr. AINSLIE pays great attention to building up the general health of the patient. He sometimes makes a cautious trial of the oxymercurate of mercury, in conjunction with warm bathing.

"But," he says, "of all the alterative and deobstruent remedies employed by the native practitioners of India in this complaint, none is of equal repute with the concrete milky juice of the plant called by the Tamools *Yercam* (*Asclepias Gigantea*); it exudes from the leaves and tender shoots on being pricked, and has, at first, somewhat the appearance of cream; but on drying becomes a little darker colored, and has a rather nauseous and acrid taste; it should be given in proper doses, twice daily, together with a little sulphur, and continue for some weeks."

Curacao, West Indies, April 10, 1867.

INTERESTING CASE OF TALIPES EQUINO-VARUS.

By GREGORY DOYLE, M. D.,

Of Albany, New York.

I send you a brief report of the following case and its treatment, hoping it may prove of interest.

Mary McK—, of Cortland Co., New York, aged 14 years; born of healthy parents. Had always enjoyed good health and the perfect use of her limbs, until about seven years ago. At this time her right leg and thigh became partially

paralyzed; a supposed consequence of her being exposed to a draft of air while sleeping near an open window. The external muscles of the leg became almost completely paralyzed, while the internal or flexor muscles retained their normal contractility, which rapidly produced a condition of the foot known as talipes equino-varus. She was brought to me in October last, when I for the first time saw the case. I found the entire limb atrophied and about two inches shorter than its fellow. Below the knee the leg was unusually cold and undeveloped. The foot, which had almost lost the characteristics of such a member, was so completely displaced, that she walked, with the aid of crutches, on its dorsum, the external malleolus touching the ground at each step, and the sole of the foot looking upward. The gastrocnemius muscle was so strongly contracted that the heel had become almost obliterated.

Having placed the patient under the influence of chloroform, I divided the tendo-Achillis subcutaneously.

The external wound, which was but slight, healed kindly in three days, at the end of which time, by using a little force, I brought the foot so near its normal position, that if she were standing she could place its entire outer edge on the ground. I then found the flexors longus digitorum and longus pollicis, also much contracted, but instead of dividing their tendons, I proposed to restore them to their normal length by a somewhat novel method. I caused to be made a splint one fourth inch in thickness and the size and shape of the sole of her shoe. This I fastened to the sole of the foot by means of strips of adhesive plaster around the foot, which pressure served to extend the contracted plantar fascia. Over the whole I placed a roller bandage, which was continued to within four inches of the knee. At the outer edge, and also at the anterior extremity of the splint, to levers two inches in length, which were attached to the splint at the points above mentioned, were fastened two strong pieces of elastic webbing. They were made tense, and secured to the outer aspect of the leg just below the knee by means of adhesive plaster and roller, thereby steadily and continuously counteracting the contracted muscles, tendons, and ligaments of the opposite side of the foot and leg. This treatment was persevered in for three months, at the end of which time the foot was almost completely restored to its normal position. She is now enabled to walk comfortably with the slight assistance of a cane.

The leg and foot, which were before cold and

flabby, have resumed their natural warmth and are rapidly becoming more developed.

For the last few years, I have been accustomed to rectify the malposition of children's feet, by applying strips of adhesive plaster around the foot and up the side of the leg in the same manner as that described by Dr. QUIMBY, in the March number of the "REPORTER." But I claim no originality in the treatment of these latter cases, as it was taught me years ago, when a student in the office of Dr. SAYRE, of New York. However, I do claim, that the application of the splint and levers to the sole of the foot, in connection with the elastic extension, is an improvement in the treatment of talipes, and original with myself, so far as I at present know.

The description of this case, in the absence of illustrations, is of necessity somewhat obscure. With this apology, I present it for what it may be worth.

DEFECTIVE AND IMPAIRED VISION, With the Clinical Use of the Ophthalmoscope.

By LAURENCE TURNBULL, M. D.,

Of Philadelphia.

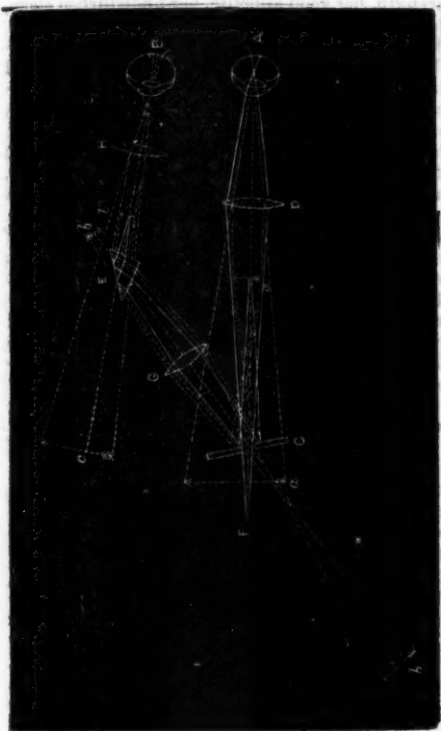
(Continued from page 304, vol. xvi.)

The Aut-Ophthalmoscope of Heymann affords to one eye a vertically-inverted image of the fundus of the other. Its operation will be readily understood by the annexed figure, from "Zander," which displays the arrangement necessary in order to examine the left eye with the right. "In front of the left eye, the flame of a lamp is placed at the point *F*, and between them a plane mirror, centrally perforated, with its reflecting surface turned toward the eye. From the point *F*, the rays pass through the opening of the mirror, and proceed, divergent, until they are intercepted by the lens *D*, which renders them convergent. Entering *A*'s pupil, they meet, overcross, and form a dispersion circle on the retina. Returning, they would (*A* being accommodated for the flame *F*) be brought to their focus *a*, and would there form an inverted aerial image. By the influence of the lens *D*, however, this image is formed earlier, in front of the mirror at *a'*. From it rays diverge to the mirror, and are reflected by it, still divergent in a direction, as if they came from an image at *b*. Passing through the lens *G*, the rays again become convergent, and would unite in an image at *b'*. They are, however, intercepted by the hypothenuse of a right-angled prism of flint-glass, *E*; and are so refracted by it that their image is formed at *b''* in front of the right eye *B*. By the interposition of a lens *H*, this

image is magnified; that is to say, the rays diverging from it to the eye *B*, are refracted as if they came from *c*, in which position, therefore, *B* sees an enlarged, actual image of *A*'s retina.

Of the manner in which this image is inverted, will be explained at another time.

FIG. 6.



By the arrangement shown in the diagram, it is manifest that only the inner or nasal side of *A*'s retina could be brought into view. To see the other side, it is necessary to place a prism between *A* and *D*, with its base outward, and with such an obliquely and refracting power as may bring rays from the parts desired to be seen into the line of direction between *A* and *F*.

According to Dr. CARTER, the various parts of Dr. HEYMANN's very ingenious apparatus are inclosed in a box, supported on a stand, and furnished with two ocular openings like those of a common stereoscope, and with the various screws and milled heads necessary for the purpose of adjusting the mirror, lenses, and prism. The side of the box that is undermost in examining the right eye, must be turned uppermost in examining the left; by which means the necessary reversal of the whole instrument is effected. It would be useless to describe here in detail the

several mechanical arrangements, the purpose of which will at once become apparent when the instrument is taken in the hand. For use, it is necessary, in the first place, to adjust the distance between the ocular openings to suit the spectator, and then to place a brightly burning lamp behind the mirror. On looking into the apparatus, if the illuminated fundus be not in view, it must be sought by very gentle movements of the mirror and prism, and as soon as a trace of it is perceived, it will be easy to guide into the centre of the field of vision. This done, the lenses should next be moved so as to bring out the details of the picture."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOXICOLOGY.

BY P. H. VANDER WEYDE, M. D.,

Late Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology at the New York Medical College.

(Continued from page 349.)

No. 2. Nitro-Benzole.

This substance is also obtained in the same way that gun-cotton, or pyroxylin, is made from ligneous fibres. The benzole from which it is made must not be confounded with the so-called benzine used by the house-painters, and obtained by distilling petroleum; the products of the distillation of the last substance belong all to the series: $C_2 H_4$, $C_4 H_8$, $C_6 H_{12}$, etc. Benzine is $C, 4 H_{12}$. Benzole, to the contrary, answers to the formula, $C_{12} H_8$. It was at first made from the gum benzoes, from which the name. It was afterward also obtained from coal-tar. When treating this benzole with fuming nitric acid, we obtain an oil resembling the oil of bitter almonds, also called oil of mirbane. The proper chemical name by which it goes at present is nitro-benzole.

It is a powerful narcotic poison, which sometimes, however, does not develop its poisonous action for three or four days. A small dose given to an animal usually kills, not in the first few days; in one case, even nine days elapsed before death occurred. The symptoms are drowsiness, convulsions, and coma, as verified in five cases where drops of nitro-benzole had been accidentally taken by the mouth. Four of the five persons died. One case is even recorded in England, when in 1860, a workman, handling a vessel with nitro-benzole, spilled a large quantity upon his apron. Not suspecting any evil effects, he breathed the vapor arising from the liquid on the apron. In four hours he began to feel unwell, and in nine hours he was dead.

Notwithstanding its smell like bitter almonds

and Prussic acid, it is seen to be entirely different in its chemical composition and origin. At present it is extensively used for scenting almond soap, and I have even found it in the bitter almond flavoring extracts used in the culinary department of our households; and cases have already occurred where symptoms of poisoning manifested themselves, the cook having used an unnecessarily large quantity of this substance for flavoring puddings.

In the same way as for the chemical treatment of a poisoning case with hydrocyanic (Prussic) acid or its compounds, has been recommended the use of a solution of green protosulphate of iron, in order to convert it into insoluble Prussian blue; so I would recommend as an antidote in a case of poisoning with nitro-benzole, weak acetic acid and pulvis ferri, in order to convert it into aniline, and to convert this aniline by weak chlorine water, to an insoluble and harmless aniline color. However, the stomach-pump should always first be used, if possible.

I will hereafter come back to this subject when treating aniline.

Hospital Reports.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, }
June 1, 1867. }

SURGICAL CLINIC OF PROF. GROSS.

Reported by Dr. Napheys.

Scirrhus of Mammary Gland.

Mrs. J., æt. 53. This patient has a scirrhus tumor, immediately under the skin, just above the nipple of the left breast. The disease began nearly eighteen months ago. The nipple is depressed. This depression of the breast is more marked in scirrhus than in any other form of malignant disease; it is not, however, peculiar to carcinomatous affections, but occurs also in those of non-malignant character. The tumor is not apparently attached to the aponeurosis of the pectoral muscle, as is apt to be the case when the disease is in an advanced state. The pain is of a shooting, darting character, as it always is in scirrhus; not constant, gradually increasing with the progress of the disease until it ultimately becomes very distressing. There is no enlargement of the subcutaneous veins, which forms so characteristic a feature in encephaloid. The glands in the axilla are not increased in size. During the progress of malignant disease of the mammary gland, especially scirrhus, these glands always become involved. In the advanced stages of the affection, Prof. Gross has never seen an absence of this involvement. It is an untoward symptom, and when it exists in a great degree, it forbids interference with the knife. The condition of the sub-clavicular and supra-clavicular ganglions should always be ascertained. In this case there

is no enlargement of the former, but one of the latter is increased in size. It is smaller, however, than it was observed to be a few days ago, from which fact, as well as from the absence of involvement of the axillary lymphatic glands, it is inferred that its enlargement has no connection with the mammary affection.

Considering all the circumstances of the case, the good health of the patient, her unimpaired strength, her good appetite, her undisturbed sleep, the very little pain she suffers, and the absence of involvement of the skin and lymphatic ganglions, it is a proper one for extirpation. And this is the only remedy which should ever be employed in a case of this kind. The escharotics which are employed by the charlatans who call themselves cancer doctors, cause a fearful amount of suffering, rapidly undermining the strength, and sometimes destroying the life of the patient notwithstanding the exhibition of anodynes. Neither can such applications with any degree of certainty remove all the cancerous substance, a portion is left behind which becomes the centre of a new growth, which generally rapidly increases in consequence of the irritation produced by the caustic. By means of the knife all of the diseased structure may, and should with scrupulous care, be removed.

This patient ascribes the growth of the cancerous tumor to the effect of a blow from a ball, thrown by a boy. Almost all cases of cancer of the breast are supposed by the patients to owe their origin to some blow or other injury. In very many instances, upon careful inquiry, it will be ascertained that the blow has had very little or nothing to do with the development of the disease. Now and then it can be traced distinctly to an external injury; but in a great majority of instances it arises without any apparent cause, and it is, generally speaking, a constitutional disease. Whether arising under the influence of external injury or spontaneously, it is usually equally malignant and ultimately liable to return.

The patient was placed under the influence of chloroform, and an elliptical incision made through the skin, including the nipple. The whole of the morbid mass was removed. An incision was made through the base of the lower flaps for the introduction of a tent to facilitate drainage. The edges of the wound were approximated by interrupted sutures and narrow adhesive strips fifteen inches in length. A compress and bandage were then applied. At the end of thirty-six hours, or sooner, if undue irritation takes place, these dressings will be removed and new ones substituted. If she suffer pain, she may take one-third or one-half a grain of morphia, and to-morrow a mild aperient will be administered.

White Paste which will adhere to any substance.

Make the following mixture: Sugar of lead, 720 grains, and alum 720 grains; both are dissolved in water. Take 2½ ounces of gum arabic and dissolve in 2 quarts of warm water. Mix in a dish one pound of wheat flour with the gum water cold, till in pasty consistence. Put the

dish on the fire, and pour into it the mixture of alum and sugar of lead. Shake well, and take it off the fire when it shows signs of ebullition. Let the whole cool, and the paste is made. If the paste is too thick, add to it some gum water, till in proper consistence.

Medical Societies.

ASSOCIATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, was held at the Continental Hotel, in the city of Philadelphia, on Tuesday, May 21, 1867.

The Association was called to order at 10, A.M., by Dr. KIRKBRIDE, President.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Letters were read by the Secretary, from Drs. Jos. Workman, Sawyer, Chipley, Van Nostrand, Delboef, Litchfield, and Harlow, regretting their inability to be present.

The following members were present:

Thomas S. Kirkbride, M. D., Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Philadelphia.

John Fonerden, M. D., Maryland Hospital for the Insane, Baltimore.

Andrew McFarland, M. D., Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, Jacksonville.

Clement A. Walker, M. D., Boston Lunatic Hospital, South Boston, Mass.

I. Ray, M. D., late of Butler Hospital, Providence, R. I.

J. P. Bancroft, M. D., New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, Concord, N. H.

R. L. Parsons, M. D., New York City Asylum for the Insane.

John B. Chapin, M. D., Brigham Hall, Canandaigua, N. Y.

Wm. P. Beale, M. D., State Lunatic Asylum, Austin, Texas.

D. D. Richardson, M. D., Insane Department of the Philadelphia Almshouse.

D. T. Brown, M. D., Bloomingdale Asylum, New York city.

Edward C. Fisher, M. D., Insane Asylum of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Jas. Rodman, M. D., Western Lunatic Asylum of Kentucky, Hopkinsville.

Wm. L. Peck, M. D., Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Columbus.

Benj. Workman, M. D., Asst Med. Sup't Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, C. W.

Richard Gundry, M. D., Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Dayton, Ohio.

R. Hills, M. D., West Virginia Hospital for Insane, Weston, W. Va.

J. A. J. Landry, M. D., Lunatic Asylum, Quebec, Canada.

Byron Stanton, M. D., Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Newburgh, Ohio.

L. A. Tourtelot, M. D., First Assistant Physician, State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y.

J. H. Worthington, M. D., Friends' Asylum for the Insane, Philadelphia.

Pliny Earle, M. D., Northampton Lunatic Hospital, Northampton, Mass.

C. H. Nichols, M. D., Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D. C.

John Curwen, M. D., Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa.

H. A. Buttolph, M. D., State Lunatic Asylum, Trenton, New Jersey.

J. A. Reed, M. D., Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Dixmont, Pa.

Edward R. Chapin, M. D., Kings County Lunatic Asylum, Flatbush, N. Y.

A. B. Cabanis, M. D., Mississippi State Asylum, Jackson.

Jos. D. Lomax, M. D., Marshall Infirmary, Troy, New York.

Charles E. Van Anden, M. D., Asylum for Insane Convicts, Auburn, N. Y.

Edward Jarvis, M. D., Dorchester, Mass.

Charles H. Hughes, M. D., State Lunatic Asylum, Fulton, Missouri.

S. W. Butler, M. D., late of Insane Department, Philadelphia Almshouse.

On motion of Dr. NICHOLS, the President appointed on the Business Committee Drs. Curwen, Worthington, and Stanton.

On motion of Dr. NICHOLS, the President was also requested to appoint the usual committees on time and place of next meeting, and on resolutions of thanks, etc.

Invitations were received from the Guardians of the Poor of the city of Philadelphia, from the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and from the Managers of the Friends' Asylum, to visit the institutions under their charge, which were referred to the Business Committee.

On motion, a recess for fifteen minutes was taken.

The Business Committee reported that they would recommend that the Association visit the Insane Department of the Philadelphia Hospital at 3 P. M., on Wednesday, May 22; the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, on Thursday, May 23, at 10 A. M., and spend the day and evening there; and the Friends' Asylum at Frankford on Friday, at 3 P. M., which recommendation was adopted.

The Secretary read a paper, prepared by Dr. HARLOW, on the question: Does the Urine necessarily Undergo a Change in its Composition in Persons afflicted with Insanity in any of its various forms? Which, after discussion, was laid on the table.

Dr. CURWEN, from the Committee on the Epileptic Insane, reported progress and asked to be continued, which was granted.

Dr. MCFARLAND read a paper on the Personal Liberty Law of Illinois, the Causes which led to its Enactment, and its Results, and after a free interchange of opinion by the members, the paper was laid on the table.

On motion, adjourned to 4, P. M.

The Association was called to order at 4, P. M., by Dr. KIRKBRIDE.

Dr. J. A. REED appeared and took his seat.

The President appointed on the Committee on

the Time and Place of next Meeting, Drs. Bancroft, Fisher, and Peck; and on the Committee on Resolutions, etc., Drs. McFarland, Fonerden, and Landry.

On motion of Dr. RODMAN, Dr. GEO. BROWN, of the Asylum for Idiots, Barre, Mass., and Dr. H. B. WILBUR, of the Asylum for Idiots, Syracuse, New York, were invited to take seats with the Association.

The Secretary read a paper prepared by Dr. LITCHFIELD, of Kingston, C. W., on the Proper Provision for the Insane in South Australia, the discussion of which was postponed for the present.

On motion of Dr. NICHOLS, Dr. WILBUR was invited to read a paper to the Association.

Dr. WILBUR then proceeded to read a paper on Aphasia, and after a free expression of opinion by the members, the paper was laid on the table.

On motion of Dr. NICHOLS, it was agreed, that when the Association adjourns, it adjourns to meet at 10, A. M., to-morrow, Wednesday.

The minutes of the meeting were then read and approved.

On motion, adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 22, 1867.

The Association was called to order at 10½, A. M., by Dr. KIRKBRIDE, President.

Drs. E. R. Chapin, A. B. Cabaniss, and J. D. Lomax appeared and took their seats as members.

Dr. WALKER stated to the Association that he had been requested by Dr. LANGDON to express his regrets to the Association that he was unable to attend this meeting.

Dr. W., on his own behalf and that of Dr. TYLER, extended a cordial invitation to the Association to hold their next meeting in Boston.

Dr. HILLS moved that the proceedings of this Association be hereafter published by the Association in pamphlet form, for the use of the members.

Dr. WORTHINGTON moved to amend by referring the whole subject to a special committee, to report at as early a period as practicable.

Dr. RODMAN offered as a substitute, that this Association report, at its own expense, its proceedings in the *Journal of Insanity*.

On motion of Dr. FISHER, it was resolved that the whole matter, with the resolutions offered, be referred to a select committee, to be appointed by the President, to report at an early period, and that Dr. EARLE be chairman of that committee.

The President appointed as the other members of the committee, Drs. Fisher and Rodman.

Invitations to visit the Pascal Iron Works and the Steam Boiler Works of Joseph Harrison, Esq., were received and referred to the Business Committee.

Dr. J. B. CHAPIN then proceeded to read a paper on Provision for the Chronic Insane Poor, and afterward, Dr. B. WORKMAN also read a paper on Asylums for the Chronic Insane in Upper Canada, and after considerable discussion, the subject was, on motion, postponed for the present.

On motion, adjourned, to meet at 10 o'clock to-

morrow, at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.

The members of the Association spent the afternoon in examining the arrangements of the hospital wards of the Philadelphia Almshouse, and also the wards of the insane department of the same institution.

THURSDAY, May 23, 1867.

The Association met at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and was called to order at 10, A. M., by Dr. KIRKBRIDE, President.

Dr. CHAS. E. VAN ANDEN appeared and took his seat.

On behalf of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Dr. KIRKBRIDE extended a cordial welcome to the members of the Association.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

An invitation was received from C. COPE, Esq., President of the Academy of Fine Arts, to visit that Institution.

The Committee on the Time and Place of the Next Meeting, through Dr. BANCROFT, reported that they had decided to recommend as the place of next meeting, Richmond, Va., and the time, the third Tuesday of May, 1868.

Dr. NICHOLS moved to amend by substituting Washington for Richmond, and Dr. WALKER moved to substitute Boston.

A recess was then taken for a short time. On reassembling, it was resolved first to fix the place of meeting, and then the time, and on a vote being taken, Boston was decided on as the next place of meeting, and the second Tuesday in June, 1868, as the time.

A recess was again taken, and under the conduct of Drs. KIRKBRIDE and JONES, the members passed through and examined the very superior arrangements of the department for males.

On again reassembling, on motion of Dr. WALKER, Dr. RAY was respectfully requested to read a paper prepared by him for the American Medical Association, as chairman of the Committee on Insanity.

The discussion of the proper care of the chronic insane was, on motion, postponed for the present, and Dr. RAY read to the Association his able and interesting paper.

On motion, adjourned to 3½, P. M.

Early in the afternoon the members proceeded to the Department for Females, and under the conduct of Dr. KIRKBRIDE, visited all the wards and the other very excellent arrangements of the Hospital.

The Association was called to order at 5, P. M., by the President, Dr. KIRKBRIDE.

Dr. EDWARD JARVIS, Dorchester, Mass., appeared and took his seat.

The discussion of the care of the Chronic Insane was postponed for the present.

Dr. EARLE, from the Committee on Reporting the Proceedings of the Association, offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st. That for the present meeting, and in the future, it be the duty of the Secretary to procure a phonographic report of the proceedings of the Association.

Secondly. That after each annual meeting he shall forward a copy of said report for insertion in the *Journal of Insanity*, provided, that, before forwarding it for publication, every member shall have the opportunity to revise his reported remarks, and after its publication shall be supplied, at his own expense for paper and press work, with such number of pamphlet copies of the whole report, as he may order.

Thirdly. That in the revision of remarks, verbal alterations alone shall be permitted. No new matter, further than this, shall be introduced; but all or any parts of the matter as reported may be suppressed or condensed at the discretion of the Secretary.

Fourthly. The report shall be published, if published at all, as furnished by the Secretary.

Fifthly. That the expense of reporting the proceedings, and preparing them for publication, be defrayed by an annual assessment upon the members sufficient for the purpose.

Sixthly. That no reporter, other than the one employed by the Secretary, shall be permitted to sit in the meeting of the Association.

On motion, the report was considered by sections, and after several verbal alterations, was adopted, with the exception of the last section, which was rejected.

The committee were further instructed to ascertain the expense of providing for the publication.

Dr. CURWEN offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the President be requested to assign to each member some subject connected with the medical or moral treatment of the insane, and that the member, to whom such subject shall be assigned, be requested to prepare a paper to be read at the next meeting of the Association.

After a brief discussion the resolution was rejected.

The discussion of the proper care of the chronic insane was then resumed, and after considerable discussion the subject was postponed for the present.

On motion, adjourned to 10, A. M., Friday.

After adjournment, the members were entertained with a fine exhibition of the magic lantern, and also witnessed with great pleasure the performances in light gymnastics, in the beautifully arranged Gymnastic Hall, and spent the remainder of the evening sociably, at the residence of Dr. KIRKBRIDE.

Friday, May 24th, 1867.

The Association was called to order at 10, A. M., by the President, Dr. KIRKBRIDE.

Invitations were received to visit the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and the House of Refuge, and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Dr. WALKER announced to the Association the death of Dr. C. H. STEDMAN, and, on motion, Dr. WALKER was appointed to prepare a memorial of Dr. C. H. STEDMAN, for the next meeting of the Association.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and after some remarks, approved.

On motion, the vote fixing the time of the next meeting was reconsidered, and the time was changed to the first Tuesday in June, 1868.

Dr. W. B. ATKINSON, Secretary of the American Medical Association, and Dr. JOHN HART, of N. Y., were invited to take seats with the Association.

The discussion of the care of the chronic insane was then resumed. In the course of the discussion Dr. WALKER offered the resolutions presented by him last year, and Dr. LANDRY moved the reconsideration of the vote on Dr. Cook's resolution, offered at the last meeting of the Association, which was agreed to. After considerable discussion the subject was postponed.

On motion adjourned.

The Association spent the afternoon in examining the wards and grounds of the Friends' Asylum, at Frankford, under the conduct of Dr. WORTHINGTON, and returned to the hotel early in the evening.

Adjourned to meet at 10, A. M., Saturday.

The Association was called to order, at 10, A. M., by Dr. KIRKBRIDE, President.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. WALKER, the resolutions presented by him were laid on the table.

The Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

The Association of the Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, about to conclude their twenty-first session, in the city of Philadelphia, desiring to express their obligations to the trustees of the various public institutions and private individuals who have honored the Association by their polite invitations and personal attentions, do

Resolve, That to the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, to the Managers of the Friends' Asylum, and to the Guardians of the Poor of the city of Philadelphia, the Association is specially indebted for opportunities to visit the various institutions under their respective control, and that we take pleasure in testifying to the gratification we have experienced in these visits.

Resolved, That the Association have been impressed with the continued and remarkable improvements made upon the previous superior excellence of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, which we find, as heretofore, to be the model institution of our country, and an example to those having official relations to similar institutions.

Resolved, That the Friends' Asylum is a most commendable refuge for those afflicted with mental disease, and that its management is still characterized by the same philanthropic spirit which secured for it in its origin and throughout its history hitherto, the confidence and earnest sympathy of a watchful and discriminating community.

Resolved, That the Insane Department of the Philadelphia Almshouse exhibits in its arrangements a disposition on the part of the Guardians of that institution to render it as suitable to its purposes as can be reasonably expected, though far behind some of the best arranged municipal and county institutions for similar classes of the insane.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association

are due and are hereby tendered to the Directors of the Academy of Fine Arts, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and of the House of Refuge, as well as to Messrs. Morris, Tasker & Co., Mr. Joseph Harrison, and to other gentlemen, for invitations to visit their various institutions and manufactories, want of time alone preventing our acceptance of their courtesies.

Resolved, That to Messrs. J. E. Kingsley & Co., proprietors of the Continental Hotel, we are largely indebted for the liberality and courtesy which have secured us unusual conveniences for our meeting, and that we cordially thank them for such consideration.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to furnish the parties referred to, and also the press, with a copy of the above resolutions.

Dr. RAY then related to the Association the case of John Kingsland, indicted for murder in Bradford Co., Pa.

Dr. NICHOLS, also related the circumstances connected with the history of Mary Harris, since her trial.

On motion of Dr. WALKER, it was resolved, that the project of a law be assigned as the first business of the next meeting, and that the Secretary notify the members of that fact in the regular notice of the meeting.

On motion of Dr. NICHOLS, it was resolved, that the Secretary, when giving notice of the time and place of next meeting, be requested to urge on members the importance of prompt attendance at the organization, and of remaining with the Association till the close of its sessions.

On motion of Dr. GUNDRY, it was resolved, that the President of this Association may at each meeting of this body, appoint a standing committee to report at the succeeding meeting the progress made during the interval in providing accommodations for the Insane upon this continent, their extent, and (wherever practicable) the plans of such buildings; and Dr. GUNDRY was appointed said committee.

On motion of Dr. BROWN, it was resolved, that Dr. VAN ANDEN, Superintendent of the Asylum for Insane Convicts, be requested to prepare for presentation at the next annual meeting, a statement of the provisions of the law of New York, for the disposal and care of persons acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity, and of the practical operation of any laws of that State affecting insane convicts.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet in Boston, Mass., on the first Tuesday of June, 1868.

JOHN CURWEN, M. D.,

Secretary.

The Crawford County (Pa.) Medical Association.

The Crawford County (Pa.) Medical Association, met in Titusville, on the 3d inst., and a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers: President, Dr. GREER, of Adams; Vice-President, Dr. WM. VARIAN, of Titusville; Recording Secretary, Dr. W. CHURCH, of Meadville; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. DAVID BEST, of Meadville. About sixteen members of the profession were in attendance from different parts of the county. Drs. GREER,

CHURCH, and MOODY were appointed delegates to the State Convention, which assembles in Pittsburg on the 12th of June. The County Association will hold its regular meetings quarterly, at Titusville and Meadville alternately.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA.

The Medical Society of the State of Iowa met at Davenport, on Wednesday, May 22d, the President, Dr. J. W. H. BAKER, in the chair.

The delegates were welcomed in an address by Dr. T. J. SAUNDERS, of Davenport.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Gentlemen present not members, and medical students, were invited to sit.

At the afternoon session, the President, Dr. BAKER, delivered the Annual Address, the subject being, "The Science of Medicine not an exact Science."

The following gentlemen, on the report of the Board of Censors, were admitted as members: Drs. J. W. Graham, E. H. Hazen, M. Marbourg, C. Roundy, and J. Olshausen, of Davenport; Dr. N. S. Smith, of Marshalltown; Drs. A. C. Moon, and J. C. Shrader, of Iowa City.

An invitation to visit the Soldier's Orphan's Home was accepted.

The Treasurer, Dr. CORCORAN, reported the receipts of the past year up to the time of report, to be \$216.50, inclusive of monies handed over by his predecessor, dues and initiation fees.

Report received and accepted.

The President stated, on the part of the Publishing Committee, that it was concluded that it was inadvisable at present to publish the proceedings of previous meetings of the Society.

Dr. HUGHES thought the time had come when a medical journal should be published in this State; in fact it is now contemplated to resuscitate the medical journal formerly published at Keokuk, in connection with the State Medical College.

SECOND DAY—Thursday.

At 9 o'clock, A. M., the Society met, agreeably to adjournment, the President in the chair.

Dr. HUGHES, from the Committee on Nominations, then made a partial report, recommending that the Constitution be so amended, as to make the place and time of meeting subject to the action of each annual meeting.

The report was received, and the recommendation adopted unanimously, this being necessary, constitutionally, in order to be operative.

Dr. HUGHES, from the same committee, made a further report, that the next meeting be held at Des Moines on the first Wednesday in February, which was adopted.

The Committee also presented nominations for officers for the ensuing year, and the meeting proceeded to ballot, with the following result:

President—Dr. WILLIAM WATSON, of Dubuque.

Vice-President—Dr. EDWARD WHINNERY, of Madison.

Recording Secretary—Dr. A. G. FIELD, of Des Moines.

Treasurer—Dr. M. B. COCHRAN, of Davenport.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr. E. J. B. STATLER, of Marshalltown.

Board of Censors—Dr. A. S. Maxwell, of Davenport; Dr. G. L. Carhart, of Mt. Vernon; Dr. J. Williamson, of Ottumwa; Dr. A. M. Carpenter, of Keokuk; Dr. Fred. Lloyd, of Iowa City.

The new officers were inducted, and resolutions of thanks to the retiring officers passed.

Various standing committees were called upon for reports, and excuses for non-compliance rendered.

The Committee on Epileptic Convulsions was continued.

Dr. RICHARDSON, from the Committee on Meteorology and Medical Topography, read a paper upon the subject, treating of the matter generally, and containing a recommendation for the appointment of a committee with certain specified duties.

Upon this report an interesting discussion sprung up, in which Drs. Richardson, Hughes, Field, Watson, and Whinnery participated.

On motion, the committee was continued, with authority to follow the line recommended, and constituted as follows: Dr. Richardson, of Davenport; Dr. Taylor, of Keokuk; Dr. Field, of Des Moines; Dr. Hudson, of Lyons; Dr. Stapler, of Dubuque; Dr. Williamson, of Ottumwa; Dr. Harvey, of Burlington, and Dr. Shrader, of Iowa City.

Thursday Afternoon. At the time adjourned to, the Society again met, the President, Dr. WATSON, occupying the chair.

Several standing Committees were called upon to report, and reasons were assigned for non-compliance.

Dr. ILES, from the standing Committee on Cholera, presented a lengthy and able essay upon the subject, demonstrating that he had given the matter extensive research. Dr. WHINNERY then followed, with an excellent paper upon the same topic, prepared and transmitted by Dr. HARVEY, of Burlington.

The reports were accepted, and ordered to be placed in the hands of the Publishing Committee.

The standing Committee on Phthisis was continued; also Committee on New Remedies; also Committee on Necrology.

Dr. MAXWELL, from the Committee on Hypodermic Injections, read a paper in relation thereto, prepared with much care and ability.

The report was received, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. COCHRAN read a paper embodying the details of four cases of *Cancrum Oris* occurring in his practice, and the treatment instituted therefor. The attention of the profession was particularly called to the fact that the disease is liable to be confounded with salivation arising from excessive use of mercury. He stated that a recent instance of prosecution for mal-practice had been instituted against a respectable practitioner, by reason of evident misconception on this point.

The subject produced considerable remark: Drs. LLOYD, COCHRAN, SMITH, COWDEN, and BELL participating.

Without disposing of the subject, and Dr. BELL having the floor, on motion, adjourned till 8 o'clock, P.M.

Thursday Evening. At 8 o'clock, P.M., the Society met, the President occupying the chair.

Resolutions were passed complimentary to the management of the Soldier's Orphan's Home, under the superintendence of Dr. COCHRAN.

The paper read by Dr. COCHRAN at the afternoon session, on *Cancrum Oris*, was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication, without further comment.

Dr. WHINNERY, from the standing Committee on Vaccination, made a report of considerable length, which was listened to with marked attention and interest. The report was received, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Chair then announced the Standing Committees.

Dr. HUDSON, from the standing Committee on Anæsthetics, made a report, in which the respective merits of chloroform and ether, as agents, were ably discussed by Drs. FIELD, HUGHES, and others; also indicating the treatment, in case of threatened nervous depression arising from the use of anæsthetics.

The report was received, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Miscellaneous business now being regularly in order, Dr. PECK offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Publication be requested to confer with Dr. HUGHES in relation to the practicability of Publishing the proceedings of the Iowa State Medical Society, and that, providing a reasonable contract can be agreed upon, the committee are authorized to appropriate the requisite amount from the treasury of the Society, not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars.

The Chairman then announced as follows:

Committee on Publication—Drs. Field, Williamson, and Carpenter.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report in detail to this Society, such subjects as they may deem of importance, for action at its next meeting.

Drs. Saunders, Hughes, and Watson were appointed said committee.

Resolutions preparatory to the next meeting of the Society at Des Moines, on the first Wednesday in February, 1868, were passed;—also of thanks for the accommodations and preparations for the present meeting.

Adjourned.

New Form of Antiseptic for Local Use.

The liquor carbonis detergens is recommended. It is an alcoholic solution of coal-tar, containing, we presume, the carbolic, phenic, and other acids, with dark tarry matter and differing from carbolic acid, as the liquor cinchonæ does from quinine. It readily mixes with water, forming a permanent emulsion, and in various strengths is available as a mouth-wash, a gargle, an injection for fetid uterine discharges, cancer, retained placenta, etc., gonorrhœa in the female, foul ulcers, sloughing sores, and all maladies dependent in, or complicated by, parasite beings, lice, fungi,

etc. It is also used combined with soda.—*Med. Times and Gazette.*

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Periscope.

ELECTROLYTIC TREATMENT OF TUMORS.

Now that electricity is rapidly gaining a secure and definite footing as a therapeutic agent, the following remarks on its surgical employment, by the distinguished Dr. JULIUS ALTHAUS, will be read with interest:

In tumors, the electrolytic treatment acts in a threefold manner, viz.: through mechanical disintegration by the nascent hydrogen; chemical destruction by free alkali; and modification of nutrition by the dynamic effects of the continuous galvanic current on the vaso-motor nerves of the parts brought under its influence.

1. *Nævus.* Although nævus is not commonly dangerous to the patient affected with it, yet it entails a good deal of trouble and annoyance; and, being most frequently seated on the scalp and face, gives rise to great disfigurement. Moreover, it should be recollected that nævus is liable to be inflamed by disease or injury; that ulceration may ensue, exposing parts of its substance, and forming irritable and open bleeding sores, which rarely heal soundly. It is, therefore, generally desirable to have a nævus removed.

The very large number and the exceedingly different kind of operations which have from time to time been recommended for the cure of nævus seem to show that hitherto no method has proved entirely satisfactory in its results; for I expect it is in surgery as it is in physic—viz., that the larger the number of remedies recommended for the cure of a particular disease, the less is generally their actual value. I believe, therefore, that a method so safe and so successful as the electrolytic treatment will prove a positive boon to surgeons in the management of these tumors.

I will now relate the details of a case of nævus which was successfully removed by this proceeding.

1. *Case of Nævus of the Eyelid: Operation: Cure.* In July, 1866, Mr. WHITE COOPER requested me to see with him a lady, aged 28, who had a congenital nævus of the right lower eyelid, of the size of a small pea, which it was thought desirable to remove. I expressed the opinion that this might be safely done by the electrolytic treatment, without hemorrhage, and without subsequent inflammation, suppuration, or sloughing. We therefore met on the 23d of July, in order to perform the operation.

As the patient was of a highly sensitive constitution, chloroform was administered by Dr. ALLAN, of Hyde Park Terrace, the ordinary medical attendant of the lady. As soon as she was fairly under the influence of it, Mr. WHITE COOPER introduced a needle connected with the negative pole of ten cells of the battery into the

right half of the tumor; and I closed the circuit by placing a moistened electrode, connected with the positive pole, to the skin of the neck. The current was then allowed to pass for two minutes, after which the needle was withdrawn.

Not a drop of blood was lost, either on introducing or on withdrawing the needle. The patient recovered well from the chloroform, and said she felt no pain in the part that had been operated upon, but merely a slight stiffness. The right half of the tumor appeared shrunk and shrivelled up, while the left half had not been altered in any way. This was an interesting circumstance, as it showed that, even in such a small tumor as the one described, the action of the current could be exactly limited to that portion of it which was in contact with the needle.

We met again on July 26th, when the same operation was performed on the other half of the tumor; but this time the patient objected to the use of chloroform, and bore the trifling pain of the galvanism extremely well without it. I have not seen the patient since; but received, on October 13th, a note from Dr. ALLAN, in which he expressed himself as follows: "Mrs. — is in the country; but, last time I heard from her, she said the nævus had disappeared. A dozen years ago I wished it to be removed, but no one would do it; and the able and esteemed oculist whom she then consulted deprecated all interference. At length I persuaded her to have another opinion (that of Mr. WHITE COOPER). The result was your employment of galvanism, with the happy effect of complete obliteration of the evil."

What can be done with nævus can be done with many other tumors by the electrolytic treatment. I subjoin three other cases, the issue of which was equally satisfactory.

2. *Case of Papillary Growth in the Armpit: Operation: Cure.* A lady, aged 27, consulted me on November 21st, 1866, on account of a small papillary and highly vascular growth, which had first appeared in the right axilla since the commencement of 1865, and had somewhat rapidly increased in size during the last few months. It was one-third of an inch long, and one-fourth of an inch wide in its widest part. I introduced a needle connected with fifteen cells of the battery into the base of the tumor, and allowed the current to pass for three minutes. No chloroform or ether-spray was used. The current had not acted many seconds when a peculiar change was observed in the tumor, which lost its flesh-color and became quite white, as if it had been frozen. When the needle was withdrawn, circulation in the tumor had evidently quite ceased. There was scarcely any pain during the operation, and none at all afterwards; nor was any blood lost.

Nov. 23d. Tumor entirely shrivelled up, looking like a thin brown leaf just adhering to the skin. The operation was, therefore, not repeated.

Dec. 20th. The eschar fell off about a week after the operation. There is now no sign that there ever was a tumor, no scar, nor even redness of the skin, being perceptible.

3. *Case of Molluscum of the Right Eyelid: Operation: Cure.* A married woman, aged 32, was sent to me by Dr. TILBURY FOX on November

29th, 1866. She had a very hard globular sebaceous tumor, with a broad base, just under the right eyelid; its size was between a large currant and a small hazel-nut, and it had a dark point on the summit. The tumor disfigured the face considerably; and it somewhat interfered with the sense of sight, for the patient could not look straight at anything without feeling giddy. As the stratum of corium over the tumor appeared considerably distended, and as I was anxious that no scar should be left after the operation, I only used a current of five cells in this case on three different occasions, viz., on November 29th, and December 1st and 7th.

Jan. 10th. Nearly the whole of the eschar has come off, leaving a soft red surface. At the inner edge a small piece of tumor still adhered to the skin, for which I applied again a current of five cells for about one minute. Feb. 5th. No trace is now left of the tumor.

In this case the treatment lasted somewhat longer than usual, because I acted with very low power. The tumor might have been removed by a single operation; but then a scar, which is always an eyesore, might have been the consequence, which I thought it better to avoid, especially as there was no occasion for hurry.

I should add, that in this case, as in the others, not the slightest bad symptom arose during the progress of the treatment.—*Brit. Med. Journal.*

Narcaine.

Narcaine is coming into great fashion amongst the French to replace morphia. The dose generally given internally, is from a sixth to half a grain. At the outset it diminishes the pulse, but subsequently accelerates the pulsations. It does not seem to produce constipation, but rather a free action of the bowels. It is said to retard menstruation. Dr. EULENBERG prefers it to any other narcotic, and gives it in neuralgia, in painful affections generally, and articular disease, iritis, cystitis, and orchitis, stating that it produces sleep, "which is soft, tranquil, uninterrupted, and followed by a quiet awaking." Narcaine is reported to be preferable to morphia as a general rule, and to act effectually in those cases in which morphia fails.

Reviews and Book Notices.

Idiocy: and its Treatment by the Physiological Method. By EDWARD SEGUIN, M. D. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1866. 8vo., pp. 457. Price, \$5.

If greatness of mental power be measured by the difficulty of the tasks it accomplishes, a high place ought to be awarded to those who have dealt successfully with the problem of the treatment of imbecility. And among these, no one probably has rendered service of more permanent value than Dr. SEGUIN. The work before us is far from his first, upon what appears, with him, to have been the study of a life-time. In 1839, his name appeared with that of ESQUIROL,

in an account of their joint labors; shortly afterward in a number of original papers; and again in 1846, in a treatise upon idiocy, issued in Paris. The bibliographical list attached to Dr. SEGUIN's preface contains now the titles of forty-six works and papers upon the subject, which was a totally new one at the end of the last century.

To the general or medical reader, the most attractive part of Dr. SEGUIN's volume will perhaps be his introduction. In this he gives an admirable outline of the history, not only of the origin of the training of imbeciles, but of the scientific foundation of the modern theory or philosophy of education. BONATERRE, in 1799, wrote a philosophical notice of the "savage of the Aveyron;" whose education was undertaken and conducted with some success by ITARD, of Paris. About the same time, J. R. PEREIRE applied his physiological studies to the object of teaching deaf-mutes to speak; in which he succeeded to the admiration of BUFFON and others. Intimacy existing between this gentleman and J. JACQUES ROUSSEAU, the latter imbibed the physiological theory of educational development, and embodied it, with some ideas of his own, in his famous book, ÉMILE; to which an immense influence has been ascribed. Our author does not hesitate to trace to these men, as their real originators or discoverers, those principles of education applicable to all minds, which have been associated with the names of PESTALOZZI, J. PAUL RICHTER, and HERBERT SPENCER.

Hardly could any evidence be stronger, that no scientific inquiry or effort is unproductive, than this fact of the true theory of general education having been evolved out of endeavors for the training of savages, idiots, and deaf-mutes. The improvement and utilization of imbeciles are, however, aims of sufficient importance in themselves to receive the attention of able and devoted men. For these especially is Dr. SEGUIN's work designed; and it will be found to be full of valuable information and instruction.

Health of Providence, R. I.

There were 63 deaths in Providence during the month of May, which number was 14 less than in the preceding month; 5 less than in May, 1866, and 14 less than the average for May during the last twelve years.

The good health of the city still continues, and the mortality, compared with the actual population, is remarkably small.

There is also a remarkable absence of zymotic diseases as a class. The percentage of mortality of children is also usually small. In a word, there are no indications of an epidemic of any description.

Medical and Surgical Reporter.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 15, 1867.

S. W. BUTLER, M. D., & D. G. BRINTON, M. D., Editors.

PROGRESS in the CONTROL of CHOLERA.

The science of medicine exhibits its power over disease, not so much in its cure, as in its prevention. It is in this field where her trophies are won. Not that there are not single combats with disease, in which the medical knight-errant bears off the palm of victory with high honor to himself and to the science of which he is a votary. But when the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday, comes, he can do little more than labor to mitigate its horrors, and often sacrifices his own life in the vain effort to stay its course.

The preventive power of vaccination over small-pox, and quinia over intermittent and other fevers, are finding their counterpart in the influence of sanitary regulations in preventing cholera, and even in staying its progress when an epidemic has arisen. This has been shown time and again, but never more pointedly than during last year, both in this country and in Europe.

We know not what is in store for us this year in respect to an epidemic of cholera, but it becomes our profession to be earnestly active in making use of every expedient to prevent an outbreak of the disease, inasmuch as there are indications that one may come upon us. If we are prepared for it, the probability is that it will pass by, leaving us almost unharmed, otherwise it will surely claim its victims by the thousand.

Dr. ELISHA HARRIS, the efficient and able Secretary of the Metropolitan Board of Health of New York, in a recent communication to the President of the Board, reviews at length some of the triumphs of science over cholera. After calling attention to the fact that since last fall the Asiatic cholera has been making progress in various countries, and both in Europe and America its smouldering infection has been rekindled in a few places, he says that important progress has meanwhile been made in the practical application of preventible sanitary measures to restrain and extinguish the epidemic.

After alluding to the labors and researches of many eminent medical men and sanitarians, he says:

"The grand conclusion of all the researches and all comparisons and analysis of experience respecting cholera, may be summed up in these homely words: Put out the sparks. Remove the

local causes that increase and spread the epidemic. The fact that cholera is propagated and spread by an infective poison, which requires the aid of certain local factors, is fully established. That it is not contagious like typhus and small-pox, and that the infective property of the excremental discharges of the sick, and of persons that have been recently exposed in places infected by cholera, may be completely disinfected and destroyed by certain chemical agents, is the important truth which all classes of people should understand."

On the subject of disinfectants, Dr. HARRIS uses the following language:

"The employment of specific disinfectants of cholera excrement was commenced by us, in this country, at the Quarantine Hospitals on Staten Island in 1855. The first great lessons on the subject were taught by Dr. WILLIAM BUDD at the military barracks in Bristol, England, and by Professor PETTENKOFER, at the Kaisheim prison in Bavaria, in 1854. Dr. LANDER LINDSEY, in a cholera hospital and in certain lunatic asylums in Scotland, added several facts to the same experience.

"Certain soluble salts of iron, viz., the sulphates and chlorides which possess the power of arresting certain kinds of fermentation and of destroying certain gases and products of putrefaction, continue to be the most trustworthy chemicals for the general purposes of disinfection. We first employed them in 1855 and 1856, because of their chemical qualities, and particularly because of the success that seemed to attend their employment by the great chemist, Prof. PETTENKOFER. But these iron salts, and most other metallic salts, cannot be well used on the soiled clothing and bedding, nor do they act very permanently, for they may soak away, or may readily be changed into insoluble and inert substances. Hence, to meet the necessity for a powerful and most permanent and unchangeable antiseptic, resort is had to carbolic acid and the coal-tar compounds. Scientific chemists, and experimenter, and all well-informed sanitary officers now agree that saturated solutions of copperas and carbolic acid are at once the best and cheapest disinfectants that can be used against cholera.

"The Metropolitan Board of Health was, as I believe, the first sanitary body to provide for disinfection as an essential and distinct branch of sanitary service. Glasgow soon followed, and in Southampton and Bristol, in England, the business was, in July last, done by trained hands, and with marvellous success. St. Louis has just organized a perfect system of disinfecting depots and sanitary care in the twelve wards of that much-threatened city. In New Orleans, Nashville, Memphis, Chicago, and several other cities, the sanitary authorities are organizing the same good system. This system was first suggested by the Council of Hygiene in this city in October, 1865."

Of the immediate care of the sick and of the poor, Dr. HARRIS says:

"In every city that is now prepared to extinguish or prevent the epidemic, there has been

organized a system of medical relief and house-to-house visitation, to be ready beforehand for any event. St. Louis put its excellent system in operation soon after the first arrival of a cholera patient this spring from a down river town. The disease did not extend to half a dozen persons. St. Louis now is, and is likely to remain, one of the healthiest and safest commercial towns that one can visit in America, thanks to its Board of Health."

He then goes on to enumerate the different points where cases of cholera have occurred within the past few months, and closes his admirable letter by saying:

"These facts can be understood by our people without awakening anxiety or fear, for 'to be forewarned is to be forearmed,' and although there may be numerous cases of cholera imported from the South and elsewhere, and though there may be repeated outbreaks in the lower regions of the Mississippi, the means of sanitary protection are definite, ample and easily applied. But wherever, in places that are ready for the kindling of the epidemic, the true means of sanitary protection are not applied, the pestilence may yet make deadly ravages. The watchword of the Metropolitan Board of Health, 'Timely and active preventive measures,' should be adopted by every city and town to which the epidemic can come."

Of whatever sins of omission or of commission the Metropolitan Board of Health may have been guilty, we have this to thank them for, that they have, in theory, at least, urged the importance of using strict sanitary measures against disease, and thus set an example to the country that can be and is profitably followed.

Notes and Comments.

Journal of Psychological Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.

Dr. WM. A. HAMMOND proposes to begin the publication of a quarterly with the above title on the 1st of July next. Each number will consist of 160 pages, printed in the highest style of the art.

The contents will embrace:

1. Original articles on the Physiology and Pathology of the Mind and Nervous System, and on Questions of Medical Jurisprudence.
2. Selections and Translations from Foreign Journals.
3. Reviews and Bibliographical Notices.
4. Chronicle of the Psychology and Pathology of the Mind and Nervous System, and of Medical Jurisprudence.

It will be the aim of the Editor to render the *Quarterly Journal of Psychological Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence*, not only valuable to the

Medical, but also to the Legal Profession, and of interest to literary and scientific persons generally.

The subscription price will be FIVE DOLLARS per annum, payable on the receipt of the first number.

Medical Society of Iowa.

The extent of our circulation in Iowa justifies the somewhat full report of the interesting proceedings of the recent annual meeting of the Medical Society of Iowa, which appear in this number.

Gone to Europe.

This can be said of quite a number of our profession at this time. Some have gone, others are going. We understand that Prof. PANCOAST, of this city, is booked for the voyage, and there are probably others, of whom we have not yet heard. Dr. E. R. MAXSON, of Adams, N. Y., and Dr. THOMAS M. LOGAN, of Sacramento, California, have gone, the latter bearing a commission from the American Medical Association to the International Medical Congress at Paris.

The American Journal of Dental Science.

We welcome again to our table the old familiar face of this journal, which has been absent several years. In times past it was the mainstay, as it was, we believe, the pioneer of dental periodical literature. We trust it may resume its former position and influence. The initial number promises well. The old familiar names of A. SNOWDON PIGGOT, A.M., M.D., and F. J. S. GORGAS, A.M., M.D., D.D.S., appear as editors. It is published monthly, at \$3 a year.

Union Medical Association.

A stated meeting of the "Union Medical Association of Philadelphia" will be held at the Hall, N. E. corner of Fourth and Green streets, on Tuesday, the 18th of June, at 9, P. M. The members of the profession are invited to attend.

Taking in Sall.

As an evidence of the pinching times we have been experiencing for the past few months, two or three medical journals have been obliged to suspend publication, while others, to avoid that contingency, have thought it best to take in sall. Among the latter is our old friend, the *Nashville Journal of Medicine*, one of the most independent medical journals published—a little too independent and sharp sometimes for its own good.

Persevere friends! Give us less or more good sound medical reading, but do not give up, ex-

cept where there are *too many* of you to thrive. With such a year of abundance as this promises to be, hard times cannot last long. The short crops of 1866 and no sickness are bearing hard on our profession, but time brings its compensations, and what is lost in one season is generally gained in the next.

Correspondence.

DOMESTIC.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Women Doctors.

EDITORS MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER:

The discussions and articles on the Medical Education of Women, recently published in your journal, show unusual disturbance of the medical atmosphere in Pennsylvania. The waves reached even to Cincinnati, and brought resolutions on the subject, introduced by a delegate of Philadelphia. Perhaps it was well these were referred to the Committee on Medical Ethics after the opposition manifested, especially from the speaker who claimed to be "a friend of the ladies." It was surprising that he did not look more horror-stricken when he indulged in that flight of fancy, reported as follows: "Imagine a young lady, with gigantic chignon and garbed in silks, entering the charnel-house, and bending over a corpse, microscope in hand, searching for cancer cells, etc. etc." "Chignon" is not in Webster or Worcester; so we cannot realize his picture, nor escape from the conviction that it is something horrid, coupled as it is with the word "gigantic." French extraction, or a residence abroad may have contributed to make this an essential part of his ideal of a "lady garbed in silk." Let us hope, however, that your State Society will discountenance all "ladies" answering this description, who seek its approbation.

Perhaps your readers may be interested in hearing how the case stands in New York. The *Medical Register* for 1866, contained the names of not less than three women in its list of qualified physicians. No name there appears, unless its owner has received authority to practice from a source which the American Medical Association would unhesitatingly recognize, and unless there is strict conformity to its code of ethics. Do our physicians consult with them? Let facts answer. A recognized Institution in our city is "The New York Infirmary for Women and Children, and Woman's Medical College." It has a Medical Board. Drs. WILLARD PARKER, GUSTA-

VUS A. SABINE, ISAAC E. TAYLOR, JAMES R. WOOD, AUSTIN FLINT, and THOMAS F. COCK, are the Consulting Physicians. Drs. ELIZABETH and EMILY BLACKWELL, are the Attending Physicians. Dr. LUCY M. ABBOT, is the Assistant Physician. According to the last *Medical Register*, from which these names are copied, several thousand persons have been properly cared for by the above board. Women have been at the Academy of Medicine, and although their presence caused a slight flutter, no one was hurt. Their good sense, in the opinion of the large majority of our profession, would lead them to other pursuits, but after all, they may be right. Not many years ago our public schools were taught exclusively by men; now women fill many of the most responsible positions, and show wonderful tact in managing unruly boys and girls. An experienced teacher once remarked to the writer, "they have more patience."

N. Y. County Medical Society.

Last evening Dr. JOHN C. PETERS enlightened our County Society on the subject of "*Hahnemann and Homœopathy*." A large number were present. Dr. PETERS was at one time a prominent homœopathist, having been the principal editor of the leading homœopathic medical journal; but several years ago he renounced that faith, and has recently been admitted to membership in our oldest Medical Society. The paper was mainly occupied with the consideration of the notorious system now declining. It would be very desirable to have heard more of the personal experience of Dr. PETERS, and if he would inform the profession how Satan led him from the straight path, and how he escaped from the black darkness of his errors, light might come to other sinners. In haste, but more anon, from

SWAN-QUILL.

New York, June 8, 1867.

Hydrocele Cured by Caustic.

EDITORS MED. AND SURG. REPORTER.

Mr. S., a stout hearty man, 40 years of age, applied to me six months ago for the cure of a large hydrocele of eighteen years standing, having been operated on repeatedly, with no success, at intervals of a year or two. Circumference of testicle eight inches, very hard, and not showing much transparency to light—a doubtful tumor, were it not for its history. A pill composed of half a grain each of calomel, camphor, and opium was given three times a day, for four days. An incision was made in the most dependent part of about an inch in length, and nitrate of silver applied with a rapid motion over the immediate

inner surface for an inch around the opening. Inflammation and suppuration, with slight constitutional symptoms ensued, and a permanent cure—testicle, smaller now at two months, than the other.

H. L. W. BURRITT, M. D.

Bridgeport, Ct., March 20, 1867.

News and Miscellany.

The Medical Convention.

As this is the season of medical conventions, we copy the following verses from the *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, said to have been written "many years ago, by some cynical old fogy." Our readers may apply it to what convention they choose.

Once on a time some doctors thought
Of the quite bold invention,
Of getting into notice brought
By holding a Convention.

So to the fact without delay
They called the world's attention,
That there would be on such a day
A Medical Convention.

Then off they started for the place,
Which here I need not mention,
And ran a sort of Galpin race
To get to the Convention.

When there, they made a sort of tether
To bind them to detention,
And held themselves three days together
In their so-called Convention.

They then began to talk *soft scander*
And banish all discussion,
And rise and speak to points of order.
Like folks in a Convention.

They read some papers, talked about
Standards and school extension,
And no one had a single doubt
But 'twas a real Convention.

They had a supper then prepared,
And wines their thirst to quench on;
And everywhere the people stared
At doctors in Convention!

They had excursions here and there,
I should not fail to mention;
And ate and drank their legal share,
These men of the Convention.

Then homeward bound these doctors strut
Without an apprehension,
As to the figure they would cut
After their great Convention.

Were they not great men one and all?
Their greatness who could trench on?
Had they not answered to the call—
And gone to the Convention?

"You snarler! ask what we have done?
We did, Sir, our intention;
We ate and drank and had our fun,
And sat in a Convention."

Now though I neither would cajole,
Nor laugh, nor breed contention;
Yet the affair was on the whole,
A mighty poor Convention.

American Pharmaceutical Association.

Notice is hereby given, that the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be held in New York city, commencing at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the second Tuesday in September (10th), 1867.

A suitable room has been secured by the local

secretary, in the University Buildings, on University Place, corner of Waverley Place.

Aside from the importance of the reports to be submitted, it may be of interest to the Association to know that several of our members, now abroad, will act as delegates of the Association to the International Congress of Pharmacologists at Paris, August 21, and will return in time to be present at the session in New York.

A cordial invitation is extended to all engaged in trade or manufactures connected with pharmacy, to send specimens of their stock or products for exhibition during the session.

These may be sent to P. W. BEDFORD, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, University Buildings, New York city, notifications to that effect being addressed to him in advance, by mail, to 709 Sixth Avenue.

FREDERICK STEARNS,

President of the Amer. Pharm. Ass'n.

Detroit, May 15, 1867.

—DR. CHANDLER BALCH BRAMAN, of Brighton, Mass., has been appointed by President JOHNSON, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., to date from May 14, 1867.

[Notices inserted in this column gratis, and are solicited from all parts of the country; Obituary Notices and Resolutions of Societies at ten cents per line, ten words to the line.]

MARRIED.

BOWERS—GRISWOLD.—In Circleville, Ohio, June 4, 1867, by Rev. Mr. McMullen, Dr. E. Dillen Bowers and Jennie M., daughter of Dr. Wayne and Mary E. Griswold, all of Circleville.

CAMPBELL—HEARSEY.—At Bloomfield, N. J., by Rev. Samuel J. Evans, of Saco, Me., Thomas Pearsell Campbell and Catherine B. O. Hearsey, daughter of the late Dr. Isaac P. Hearsey, U. S. A.

OAKEY—SARGENT.—At Trinity Church, Boston, May 30, Daniel Oakey, of New York, and Ella, daughter of Dr. J. Howard Sargent, of Boston.

DIED.

ANNAN.—In Baltimore, June 6th, 1867, in the 24th year of her age, Emily, daughter of Dr. Samuel and the late Anne M. F. Annan.

BRECHER.—In New Haven Ct., June 4th, Susan J., wife of J. H. Brecher, M. D., and eldest daughter of the late Hoadley Bray, Esq., of East Haven.

EVERSON.—In this city, suddenly, on the 4th inst., Annie, wife of J. C. Everson, M. D., and daughter of Jacob Brown, aged 19 years.

MITCHELL.—Dr. James R. Mitchell, a prominent physician of Delaware, died at Milford a few days since.

PARKER.—At Tipton, Ind., June 2, in the hope of the Gospel, Mrs. Jane, wife of Dr. Isaac Parker.

SHIPPER.—In this city, on the 5th inst., at his late residence, No. 1236 Walnut street, Dr. Wm. Shippen, in the 76th year of his age.

STEWART.—In this city, on Monday night, June 3d, Josiah Stewart, M. D., in the 75th year of his age.

WHITE.—In New York, June 6, at the residence of his son-in-law, Marcellus Hartley, after a brief illness, S. Pomeroy White, M. D., in his 63rd year.

OBITUARY.

J. P. COLGAN, M. D.

At a meeting of the Southern Medical Society of Philadelphia, held June 3d, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, Death has stricken from the roll of membership the name of Dr. J. P. COLGAN, it is proper and becoming that the Society place on record a notice of his death, and testify to the merits of the departed, the atti-

mation in which he was held in life, his intelligence and professional bearing, and his activity and usefulness as a member of this organization—therefore, in keeping with this propriety, it is but just to say of Dr. COLGAN, that his general intelligence, the scope and liberality of his education, his intimacy with the literature of his profession, his close association with disease for more than twenty-five years, his ability accurately to observe and record the results of his observations, were well calculated to make him, as he was, alike highly useful in the ranks of his profession and at the bedside of disease.

The active and intelligent zeal with which Dr. COLGAN devoted himself to the advancement of the interests, especially the intellectual interests, of this Society, and his strict observance of the ethics of the profession, were such as to win for him the admiration and esteem of his associates, and to fully entitle him, now that he has passed away, to honorable mention. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. JOHN P. COLGAN, the Society recognizes fully the fact that the sick have lost an efficient physician, the community a useful and high-toned citizen, and this organization a most active, intelligent, and efficient member.

From the minutes.

H. YALE SMITH, M. D., President.

HARRY F. BAXTER, M. D., Recording Sec'y.

Good.—Died, of latent pneumonia, at West Chester, Pa., Dr. James M. Good, in the 27th year of his age.

Few who fall in the ranks of the profession will be more deeply regretted by all their acquaintances than Dr. Good. He is another victim to the Peninsular Campaign, during which the seeds of disease were contracted which finally destroyed him. His widowed mother and many friends have the warmest sympathy of all.

METEOROLOGY.

May,	27,	28,	29,	30,	31,	1,	2,
Wind.....	S. W.	S.	S. W.	E.	N. W.	S. W.	S.
Weather.....	Clear.	Clear.	Clear.	Cl'dy. H'vy Fog.	Clear.	Clear.	Cl'dy. Rain.
Depth Rain..							1 in.
Thermometer.							
Minimum.....	53°	57°	61°	62°	51°	49°	52°
At 8, A. M.....	67	66	73	64	63	66	67
At 12, M.....	69	78	84	72	65	73	71
At 3, P. M.....	72	78	85	75	66	73	71
Mean.....	65.25	69.75	75.75	68.25	61.25	65.25	65.25
Barometer.							
At 12, M.....	30.2	30.1	30.	30.	30.	30.2	29.9
Germantown, Pa.							B. J. LEEDOM.

BACK VOLUMES OF THE REPORTER.

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